

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bi-directional broadband communication system suitable for exchanging audiovisual content information between remote locations, comprising:

 a first interactive audio-visual appliance at a first location, wherein the first interactive audio-visual appliance comprises a television set top box capable of receiving audio-visual entertainment content and translating the audio-visual entertainment content to a format suitable for use by a television set, said first interactive audio-visual appliance having a user interface;

 one or more collection elements operably coupled to the first interactive audio-visual appliance and suitable for collecting one or more physiological data;

 a second interactive audio-visual appliance at a second location;

 wherein during a remote communication mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance a user can select to transmit via a bi-directional broadband transmission media to the second interactive audio-visual appliance the one or more physiological data collected by the one or more collection elements, and can further elect to carry out a videoconferencing function with the second interactive audio-visual appliance at the second location; and

one or more databases of medical records for a plurality of patients, coupled to the second interactive audio-visual appliance, to which the one or more physiological data transmitted to the second interactive audio-visual appliance is stored, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases;

 wherein during an entertainment mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance, the user can select to receive audio-visual entertainment content, and wherein in this entertainment mode the audio-visual entertainment content is translated by the first interactive audio-visual appliance to the format suitable for use by the television set; and

means for selecting the remote communication mode from the entertainment mode by either manually selecting to enter the remote communication mode from the user interface or by commencing collection of physiological data using at least one of the one or more collection elements.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the bi-directional broadband transmission media coupling the first and second interactive audio-visual appliances comprises the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the first interactive audio-visual appliance during a second mode of operation, a second user of the second interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit audio-visual information from the second interactive audio-visual appliance to the first interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional broadband transmission media.

5. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A bi-directional broadband communication system suitable for exchanging audiovisual content information between remote locations, comprising:

a first interactive audio-visual appliance at a first location having a first mode of operation, a second mode of operation, and a mode selection element for allowing a user of the first interactive audio-visual appliance to selectively enter the first and second modes of operation;

wherein the first interactive audio-visual appliance comprises a television set top box having a user interface, said set top box being capable of receiving audio-visual entertainment content and translating the audio-visual entertainment content to a format suitable for use by a television set;

one or more collection elements operably coupled to the first interactive audio-visual appliance and suitable for collecting one or more physiological data;

~~a content server coupled to the first interactive audio-visual appliance further comprising a content server having and having access to a content database~~; and

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a second interactive audio-visual appliance at a second location;

wherein during the first mode of operation a user of the first interactive audio-visual appliance can receive audio-visual content information selected by the user and received from the content database of the content server; and

wherein during the first mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance, the audio-visual entertainment content is translated by the first interactive audio-visual appliance to the format suitable for use by the television set;

wherein during the second mode of operation the user of the interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit via a bi-directional broadband transmission media to the second interactive audio-visual appliance the one or more physiological data collected by the one or more collection elements, and can further carry out a videoconferencing function with the second interactive audio-visual appliance at the second location;

one or more databases of medical records for a plurality of patients, coupled to the second interactive audio-visual appliance, to which the one or more physiological data transmitted to the second interactive audio-visual appliance is stored, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases; and

means for entering the second mode from the first mode by either manually selecting to enter the remote communication mode from the user interface or by commencing collection of physiological data using at least one of the one or more collection elements.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the bi-directional broadband transmission media coupling the first and second interactive audio-visual appliances comprises the Internet.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the first interactive audio-visual appliance during the second mode of operation, a second user of the second interactive audio-visual appliance can

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select to transmit audio-visual information to the first interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional broadband transmission media.

12. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An interactive audio-visual appliance, comprising:

- a control element;
- a television receiver that receives television signals received over a bi-directional broadband transmission media and demodulates the received television signals;
- a decoder that decodes the demodulated television signals and converts the demodulated television signals into audio/visual signals suitable for display on a television display;
- an interface element controlled by the control element by which a user of the interactive audio-visual appliance selectively controls operation of the interactive audiovisual appliance during a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation of the interactive audio-visual appliance;
- a mode selection element controlled by the control element for allowing a user of the interactive audio-visual appliance to selectively enter the first and second modes of operation;
- a plurality of ports controlled by the control element and suitable for accepting one or more physiological data collected by a plurality of corresponding probes coupled to the plurality of ports;
- a demodulator for demodulating data signals received over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;
- a modulator that receives data from plurality of ports and modulates the data for transmission over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;
- wherein during the first mode of operation the user of the interactive audio-visual appliance can receive audiovisual entertainment content selected by the user and received from a content server, the audiovisual entertainment content being received by the television receiver and decoded by the decoder;

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wherein during the second mode of operation the user of the interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit via a bi-directional broadband transmission media to a second interactive audio-visual appliance the one or more physiological data presented to the plurality of ports;

and wherein the first interactive audio-visual appliance can further carry out a videoconferencing function with the second interactive audio-visual appliance at the second location during the second mode of operation;

wherein the mode selection element is further responsive to receipt of data over at least one of the plurality of ports while in the first mode in order to enter the second mode; and

one or more databases of medical records for a plurality of patients, coupled to the second interactive audio-visual appliance, to which the one or more physiological data transmitted to the second interactive audio-visual appliance is stored, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases;

15. (Previously Presented) The appliance of claim 14, wherein the interface element is a control panel operable to receive selection inputs to the interactive audio-visual appliance.

16. (Currently Amended) The appliance of claim 14, wherein the interactive audio-visual appliance comprises a set top is a set top box.

17. (Original) The appliance of claim 14, wherein the bi-directional broadband transmission media comprises the Internet.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The appliance of claim 14, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the interactive audio-visual appliance during the second mode of operation, a second user of a second interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit

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audio-visual information to the interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional transmission media.

20. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A multi-functional television set top box, comprising:

a user interface that permits a user to control operation of the multi-functional set top box, wherein the user can establish operation of the television set top box in a plurality of operational modes;

a television receiver that receives television signals received over a bi-directional broadband transmission media and demodulates the received television signals, the television receiver having a user interface;

a decoder that decodes the demodulated television signals and converts the demodulated television signals into audio/visual signals suitable for display on a television display;

a demodulator for demodulating data signals received over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

at least one data probe interface port suitable for receiving physiological data from at least one data probe coupled to the data probe interface port;

a modulator that receives data probe data from the data probe interface and modulates the data probe data for transmission over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

wherein during a first mode of operation, the television set top box operates to receive audio/visual entertainment content from a remote entertainment services provider via a bi-directional broadband transmission media, and generates audio/visual signals as an output thereof suitable for play on the television set;

wherein during a second mode of operation the television set top box operates to transmit via the bi-directional broadband transmission media the one or more physiological data presented to the plurality of ports;

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one or more databases of medical records for a plurality of patients, that receives the transmitted one or more physiological data, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases;

wherein during the second mode of operation, the television set top box further operates to transmit video conference data via the bi-directional broadband transmission media, and to receive video conference data via the bi-directional broadband transmission media for display on a display; and

means for selecting the remote communication mode from the entertainment mode by either manually selecting to enter the remote communication mode from the user interface or by commencing collection of physiological data using at least one of the one or more collection elements.

24. (Previously Presented) The multi-functional television set top box according to claim 23, wherein the display comprises an integral display.

25. (Currently Amended) A multi-functional television receiver device, comprising:

a user interface that permits a user to control operation of the television receiver device, wherein the user can establish operation of the television receiver device in a plurality of operational modes;

a television tuner that receives television signals received over a bi-directional broadband transmission media and demodulates the received television signals;

a decoder that decodes the demodulated television signals and converts the demodulated television signals into audio and video signals;

a television display that receives the video signals and displays the video corresponding to such video signals;

a television audio system that receives the audio signals and reproduces audio therefrom;

a demodulator for demodulating data signals received over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

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at least one data probe interface port suitable for receiving physiological data from at least one data probe coupled to the data probe interface port;

a modulator that receives data probe data from the data probe interface and modulates the data probe data for transmission over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

wherein during a first mode of operation, the television receiver device operates to receive audio/visual entertainment content from a remote entertainment services provider via a bi-directional broadband transmission media, and generates audio information played on the television audio system and video information displayed on the television display;

wherein during a second mode of operation the television receiver device operates to transmit via the bi-directional broadband transmission media the one or more physiological data presented to the plurality of ports;

means for selecting the second mode from the first mode mode by either manually selecting to enter the remote communication mode from a user interface or by commencing collection of physiological data via the at least one data probe interface port;

one or more databases of medical records for a plurality of patients, that receives the transmitted one or more physiological data, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases; and

wherein during the second mode of operation, the television receiver device further operates to transmit video conference data via the bi-directional broadband transmission media, and to receive video conference data including audio and video information via the bi-directional broadband transmission media, and plays the audio information on the television audio system and displays the video information on the television display.

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